



## ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### GOAL 1

Take additional steps to be a business-friendly County

<b>OBJECTIVE A</b> Ensure clear and consistent County regulatory processes 	
<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Be a business-friendly County including making online permitting available</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Resume McHenry County is promoting a masking campaign, #MaskOnMcHenryCounty to promote the use of masks and to decrease the spread of COVID-19 with the help of the local business community and other local leaders.</li><li>✓ In response to COVID-19 and its substantial impact on the McHenry County business community, the Resume McHenry County Task Force was formed to make recommendations on how to safely and efficiently open McHenry County's business sector. A recommendation was to develop a one-stop shop resource where businesses and workers can find a variety of resources and programs available in one place. To explore Resume McHenry County's website, visit: <a href="http://resumemchenrycounty.org/">http://resumemchenrycounty.org/</a>.</li><li>✓ Planning &amp; Development surpassed its goal of reviewing 90% of permits within two weeks or less during the months of March and May despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.</li><li>✓ The Planning &amp; Development and IT Departments created an in-house application to allow property owners and contractors to apply for residential and commercial service permits on the Planning &amp; Development website.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Review standards and requirements with an eye toward revisions or deregulation where possible</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ The County Board voted at its June meeting on a resolution to place a temporary moratorium on the Unified Development Ordinance and the Liquor Control Ordinance in relation to outdoor seating and the sale of food and alcohol.</li><li>✓ At its September 2019 meeting, the County Board resolved to waive special permit fees for agricultural vehicles and to allow the vehicles to exceed weight limits by up to 10% in consideration of the historic rainfall</li></ul>

	<p>that has delayed farmers' plantings and harvests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The County Board voted at its August 2019 to continue suspending the enforcement of Unified Development Ordinance § 16.60.060 (School Land Donations or Cash contributions in Lieu of Donations) to encourage local businesses.</li> <li>✓ The County Board approved amendments to simplify and generally reduce the fee schedule for zoning petitions.</li> <li>✓ The County Board approved the final draft of the Unified Development Ordinance at the March County Board Meeting. Reductions and simplifications to the regulations outnumber increases and new regulations by a ratio of 2:1.</li> <li>✓ The Stormwater Management Commission has initiated the annual review of the Stormwater Management Ordinance. The commission has identified a goal to simplify or reduce runoff detention requirements for agricultural developments.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Utilize programs, services and resources currently in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In July 2020 meeting, the County Board accepted an additional \$35,000 from the State of Illinois Department of Human Resources and \$25,000 from the Community Foundation of McHenry County to continue the Homeless Motel Voucher Program, which has utilized existing Community Development Division staff to operate the program.</li> <li>✓ The McHenry County Chairman was empowered to accept \$102,000 on behalf of McHenry County to place homeless McHenry County residents in hotels when shelters in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The County is using existing Community Development Division staff to enable this program.</li> <li>✓ McHenry County has renewed its agreement with the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation at a reduced fee as of its May 2020 meeting.</li> <li>✓ The County and local municipalities are collaborating with MCEDC to serve local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>✓ P&amp;D staff collaborated with IT staff to redesign existing DevNet software to electronically track the status of permits through the review process.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ McHenry County staff actively promotes economic development programs and resources, including the Workforce Network, in discussions with businesses.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Partner with municipalities for joint economic/business incentive packages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ See Objective B Task 5.</li> <li>✓ McHenry County staff has met with various municipal economic development staff to make them aware of programs available through the County.</li> <li>✓ In conjunction with state and local incentives, McHenry County offered an incentive through its Economic Development and Business Incentive Program which was successful in attracting an expansion to Camfil USA in Crystal Lake.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Promote the County to businesses, entrepreneurs and economic decision-makers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The County Board voted to utilize the revolving loan fund for other economic development programs and purposes. The resolution making this change expresses the intent to engage community leaders, business leaders and local economic development professionals for guidance on how to best use the funding to promote economic development in the County.</li> <li>✓ An economic development webpage has been created to provide information on the various programs and tools the County administers, relevant resources and links to our Economic Development partners.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop methods and approaches to “tell our story”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ MCEDC developed a branding and development video with millennials in mind.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Standardize property assessments across the County</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Encourage relationships with small businesses in the County</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ MCEDC continues the business visitation program and quarterly municipal roundtables to discuss business outreach, development and tools to retain business in the County.</li> </ul>
<b>OBJECTIVE B</b> 	
Expand the non-residential economic tax base	
<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
1) Strengthen and formalize ties to all neighboring counties with increased emphasis to the westward counties in the economic corridors along I-90 and the state line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ McHenry County has been invited to join the Northern Illinois Land Bank Authority, managed by the R1 Planning Council of which Boone and Winnebago Counties are members. The Land Bank acquires distressed properties and returns them to productive use. The County Board will vote on entering this body at its September 15, 2020 meeting.</li> </ul>

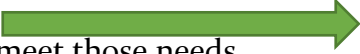
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ McHenry, Winnebago and Boone Counties met through the R1 Planning Council to put out a request for proposals on a marketing analysis and an infrastructure analysis of the three full interchanges.</li> <li>✓ The County worked with the R1 Planning Commission which was awarded federal grant dollars for the full interchange at Route 23 and I-90 and two other interchanges.</li> </ul>
2) Expand on industrial clusters (metals, technology, medicine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ At its July 2019 meeting, the County Board granted an economic development incentive for an addition to Jessup Manufacturing Company. This incentive will bring 15 new jobs to the County.</li> </ul>
3) Develop avenues to market the County's robust fiber-optic network and promote readiness and cutting edge technology infrastructure to help attract and retain businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The McHenry County Network Consortium has had two talks with Surf Air Wireless regarding marketing.</li> <li>✓ The McHenry County Network Consortium is tracking the \$400M allocated by the State of Illinois' Budget to local fiber projects.</li> <li>✓ The McHenry County Network Consortium selected a firm to market the fiber to the 40 to 50 largest businesses in the Woodstock area.</li> <li>✓ The McHenry County Network Consortium hosted an open house in November of 2018 for Woodstock area businesses to learn about the availability of the fiber network for the private sector.</li> <li>✓ iFiber developed an interactive map allowing a user to enter an address and locate the nearest broadband fiber network, which includes McHenry County's system. The interactive map is located at <a href="http://ifiber.org/interactive-map/">http://ifiber.org/interactive-map/</a>.</li> </ul>
4) Facilitate the growth and variety of tourism activities and opportunities as an economic development tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Visit McHenry County entered into an agreement with <a href="https://www.zagster.com/">Zagster</a>, a bike share company, to implement a county-wide bike share program. Visit McHenry County is partnering with other local government agencies who are interested in sponsoring a bike share station in their jurisdiction, one of which is McHenry County.</li> <li>✓ The McHenry County Board adopted the Fox River Corridor Plan.</li> <li>✓ The McHenry County Board approved a resolution supporting the Fox River Water Trail Initiative. This Resolution is intended to increase ecotourism and recreational</li> </ul>

	<p>opportunities throughout the Fox River Valley and is the first step to obtaining National Water Trail designation by the National Park Service along with increased publicity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Through nominations made by Visit McHenry County, eight McHenry County businesses have received the <i>Illinois Made</i> distinction through the Illinois Office of Tourism. The <i>Illinois Made</i> program recognizes and celebrates those makers, creators, and artisans who inspire tourism and make a tangible, positive impact on the local economy by offering a one-of-a-kind handcrafted experience. Those businesses receiving the <i>Illinois Made</i> designation become part of the statewide tourism marketing and promotional campaigns.</li> <li>✓ McHenry County once again certified that Visit McHenry County is recognized as its Visitors and Convention Bureau for state tourism grant purposes.</li> <li>✓ Visit McHenry County is working with MCDOT, municipal and corporate partners to implement a bike share program that could promote tourism.</li> <li>✓ The new Unified Development Ordinance increases the number of temporary sales events that property owners may hold from three to six and eliminate restrictions on the timing of the events during the year.</li> </ul>
5) Support / focus on small businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Community Development Division successfully awarded sixty \$5,000 grants to small businesses experiencing hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>✓ The Workforce Network has access to DCEO Rapid Response funding that can be spent to help employers retain workers and prevent layoffs. The funding range is between \$5,000 and \$50,000 per employer for activities such as cleaning and sanitation, computer work, support of COVID-19-related goods and recovery efforts, and services that support critical business operations.</li> <li>✓ The County Government website has a direct link on its home page to a collection of resources available to local small businesses during the economic hardships due to COVID-19. It also links to the MCEDC small business resources clearing house page.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The County Board adopted the Resolution Establishing an Agreement between the County of McHenry and the Illinois Energy Conservation Authority NFP, to Provide Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Improvement Administrator Services at its November 2019 meeting. The program in the resolution will provide commercial property owners with access to capital for the completion of specified energy and water efficiency projects. Financing of the projects is repaid as an assessment on the property's regular tax bill. Benefits to commercial property owners include an innovative means to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades as well as enabling installation of comprehensive retrofits. These improvements can significantly impact the business bottom line immediately with little to no up-front costs.</li> <li>✓ The County Board approved an ordinance that amends the Harvard/ Woodstock Designating Ordinance and its intergovernmental agreement with the City of Woodstock and the City of Harvard regarding the Harvard/Woodstock Enterprise Zone. This amendment eliminates the \$150,000 to \$250,000 minimum capital investment requirement, and it increases the number of years that property tax will be abated on the project's increase in value as well as the total percentage per year of the abatement for projects in the City of Woodstock.</li> </ul>
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## GOAL 2

Match the skills of the population with the needs of businesses

<b>OBJECTIVE A</b> Evaluate business needs and match funds to training that will meet those needs 	
Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Help to facilitate the development of the essential workforce and skills that existing and growing industries need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ See Objective B Task 1</li> <li>✓ Workforce Network has secured an additional \$14,084 in grant funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to assist adult, dislocated and younger workers as of July of 2020.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Workforce Network is still helping job seekers remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>✓ On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Workforce Network launched a Pre-apprenticeship Training Program for the first two cohorts of at-risk young adults and returning citizens.</li> <li>✓ In response to customer and employer feedback, the Workforce Network has brought in new workshops and classes to assist customers with their job searching and employability. The Workforce Network is now offering Internet Job Search Skills and Computer Literacy Workshops. The Young Adult Program is also offering three new classes: Customer Service Skills, Math Skills Enhancement, and Digital Literacy.</li> <li>✓ The Workforce Network has also started the Reentry (Ex-Offender) Job Search Group that helps ex-offenders become work ready.</li> </ul>
2) Help attract, grow and retain millennial talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Workforce Network hosted a second Applicant Day for the U.S. Census Bureau in partnership with the Ad Hoc McHenry County Complete Count Committee (MC4). 25 people applied to work for the U.S. Census Bureau.</li> <li>✓ The Workforce Network hosted the U.S. Census Bureau's Applicant Day in Woodstock, and, in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, the IDES and the MC4, successfully promoted census jobs with 30 people attending the event and 13 persons applying.</li> <li>✓ Workforce Network launched a new Young Adult Welding Training class on April 15, 2019 for eight individuals. First Institute provided the training and the City of McHenry Public Works Department is hosting the Mobile Welding Lab site.</li> <li>✓ The Workforce Network (WN) and First Institute Training and Management provided training for welding so participants in the Young Adult Program could earn the American Welding Society AWS D1.1 Structural Welding Code Certification. This program was developed in response to local manufacturers' demand for welders. Seven students have obtained regular employment, and WN continues to assist the remaining students in finding regular employment. This program helped</li> </ul>



	two homeless youths find employment and regular housing.
<b>OBJECTIVE B</b> Explore public-private training and education partnerships to improve the skills of the McHenry County workforce 	
Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Develop skills that existing and identified growing industries need. Partner with workforce development entities and networks, such as MCC and Workforce Network, to ensure skills gaps are addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ See Goal 2 Objective A Task 1</li> <li>✓ McHenry County Workforce Network, in partnership with local economic development staff in Woodstock, Huntley and McHenry, hosted the Registered Apprenticeship Roundtable to address employer/workforce needs. Representatives from the Department of Labor, Department of Commerce and multiple trade unions participated. Approximately 40 employers and 20 educators attended, and Congressman Hultgren gave a video introduction for the event.</li> </ul>
2) Help to lead the way for employers by developing a strategy to be identified/known as the home of progressive businesses and good places to work and do business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ See Objective B Task 1</li> <li>✓ The Workforce Network Board is working to develop the Local and Regional Workforce Plans with stakeholder input. These plans will create a comprehensive strategy for service delivery.</li> <li>✓ The Workforce Network and local partners have also completed a Service Integration plan which will enhance and streamline service delivery among partners.</li> </ul>
3) Encourage vocational training and explore in demand skills in major industries in the County (i.e., manufacturing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Workforce Network's second cohort for the Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship Program has finished with 10 individuals completing the program and receiving their certification. All 10 individuals are being placed in 240 hour paid internships with local manufacturers.</li> <li>✓ WN received a Talent Pipeline Grant of \$195,538 from the Illinois Department of Commerce for creation of a Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship Program for at-risk young adults and returning citizens. This Program is designed to be a career pathway for underutilized populations to gain skills needed to enter registered or non-registered apprenticeship programs, or directly into employment with a local manufacturer. The WN is partnering with McHenry County College, the Illinois Department of Corrections, 22nd Judicial</li> </ul>



	<p>Circuit Court, Illinois Manufacturing Association, McHenry County State's Attorney, Stateline Society for Human Resources, and local employers to bring this opportunity to the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The US Department of Labor certified the Workforce Network to sponsor four targeted job titles for Registered Apprenticeships for employers: Machinist, Die Setter-Cold Header, Tool Maker and Cabinet Maker. This relieves local businesses of the administrative burden of having a Registered Apprenticeship position.</li> <li>✓ See Objective B Task 1</li> <li>✓ An Industrial Maintenance training grant enabled the training of 53 workers at 13 County employers. Sales are estimated to increase on average over \$6.7 million and cost savings are estimated at over \$1.9 million. 96% of the participants retained their jobs with many getting promotions and/or wage increases ranging between 17%-236%. 17 people received a credential from MCC and 29 received industry recognized training. It is estimated that over 94 jobs were retained and over 10 new jobs were created.</li> </ul>
<p>4) Facilitate and encourage a variety of training and education opportunities, including technical and vocational offerings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ On August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, The Workforce Network, State's Attorney's Office, the Courts, SHRM and McHenry County College offered a program to local employers about hiring returning citizens with felonies.</li> <li>✓ Workforce Network has coordinated with the Treasurer's Office and County Administration to find workers to help with administrative tasks for the Valley Hi Rebate. This arrangement will help the County give its residents their rebate and will help the young workers develop valuable experience for their careers.</li> <li>✓ See Objective B Task 1</li> <li>✓ For the Workforce Network Program Year July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>278</b> people have enrolled in Workforce Network Services</li> <li>• <b>205</b> people received Career Services</li> <li>• <b>220</b> people received Training Services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 people were placed in an Internship</li> <li>• 30 employers received business-related services such as training for new hires, current workers or interns.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Workforce Network has been awarded \$14,244.36 in trade grant funds. These funds will be used to cover costs associated with providing services to the dislocated workers who live in McHenry County and were laid off from Department of Labor Certified Trade Act events.</li> <li>✓ McHenry County Workforce Network collaborated with the Northern Illinois Workforce coalition to develop a tuition policy to charge WIOA Customer Students the In-District tuition for approved training classes/curriculum. This model is being considered for statewide adoption by the State of Illinois.</li> </ul>
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## OBJECTIVE C

Match the skills of the existing population with needs of the existing businesses to retain talent in the County and meet the current and future workforce demands

Tasks	Accomplishments
1) No specific tasks identified in the Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Step Forward program in which places job seekers with a background has been a great success with five participants already being placed with local businesses.</li> <li>✓ Staff and regional Workforce partners met with Congresswoman Underwood to discuss Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) issues, programs and activities within her district. Locally, a follow-up meeting is planned with the Congresswoman's staff to discuss the Step Forward work readiness program for returning citizens.</li> <li>✓ Representatives from the Workforce Network (WN) met with staff for Representative Hultgren, Senator Durbin and Senator Duckworth in Washington D.C. to inform them about the progress McHenry County citizens have made through WN initiatives and to explain how the proposed changes in WIOA funding would result in a cumulative loss of 14 million dollars for programs in Illinois.</li> <li>✓ McHenry County received \$1,911,237 in WIOA Formula Grant funding to provide workforce development services and</li> </ul>

	<p>programs for count businesses and residents. This is an increase of 4.001% or \$73,666 from the previous program year, with plans to serve 280+ Customers including Job Seekers and Businesses.</p>
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